

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 10 as follows:

--10. (amended) A box for a set of electric storage batteries for an electric self-propelled vehicle, comprising:

a top;

a bottom;

at least two mutually opposite side walls extending substantially parallel between said top and bottom and defining between themselves a housing for receiving batteries,

wherein each side wall is internally provided with a series of projecting support elements extending along the wall, each support element forming, jointly with a support element of the other side wall, a support for directly supporting at least one layer of storage batteries.--

Add the following new claims:

--19. (new) A modular system comprising a box according to claim 1 and a plurality of electric storage batteries, said plural electric storages batteries providing electrical power when the box and batteries are in use in a vehicle.

--20. (new) The modular system according to claim 19, comprising a plurality of boxes connected in series.

--21. (new) The modular system according to claim 19, comprising a plurality of boxes connected in parallel.

--22. (new) A combination of a box for a set of electric storage batteries for an electric self-propelled vehicle and a set of electric storage batteries, said box comprising:

a top;

a bottom;

two mutually opposite side walls extending between said top and bottom and defining therebetween a housing for receiving said set of storage batteries, one of said side walls having a plurality of support elements extending longitudinally along said one of said side walls, another one of said side walls having a plurality of support elements extending longitudinally along said another one of said side walls, coplanar with said plural support elements of said one of said side walls, so that a pair of coplanar support elements directly contacts and supports at least one battery of said set of electric storage batteries and provides a space between each battery of said set of electric storage batteries.

--23. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 22, wherein a distance between said plural supports of said one of said side walls and said plural supports of said another one of said side walls is less than a width of said at least one battery.

--24. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 22, wherein each of said support elements extend along said side walls at an angle inclined with respect to a horizontal plane.

--25. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 24, wherein the box further comprises two end plates connected to said top, said bottom and said side walls and removably enclosing said housing.

--26. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 25, wherein said end plates each comprise a plurality of ventilation openings therethrough.

--27. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a battery holding element connected perpendicularly between adjacent ones of said plural support plates on each said side walls.

--28. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 28, wherein one end of each battery contacts one of said two end plates and another end of each battery contacts said battery holding element.

--29. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 22, comprising a plurality of boxes connected in parallel.--

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REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. The subject matter objected to as new matter is cancelled to expedite prosecution of the above application even though by definition this subject matter is not new matter since it describes the prior art.